

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computing device having an associated output device ~~[[and]]~~ that is communicatively connected with at least one other device ~~comprising one or more of a telephone device, a motion detector or a computing device,~~ a method for automatically pausing display of media content in response to an event associated with said other computing device, comprising the acts of:

as media content is obtained from a content source and displayed by the output device, detecting receipt of an email ~~a first event associated with~~ at said other computing device, indicating that the output of the media content is to be paused, ~~wherein said first event comprises at least one of a telephone related event, the receipt of an email or detection that a viewer has left a viewing area; and~~

~~in response to detecting the first event, and while maintaining a connection with the content source and continuing to receive media content from the content source, automatically executing a pause operation on the media content such that the display of the media content is modified and can be later restored without loss of continuity of the media output, said pause operation being automatically executed in response to receipt of an email at said other computing device.~~

2-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of detecting ~~the first event~~ receipt of the email comprises the act of detecting a signal from a device associated with a home network.

8-10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein:
the media content comprises a live television program; and
the pause operation further comprises initiating recording at the computing device
of the live television program.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of
detecting a ~~first event~~ receipt of an email indicating that the display of the media content is to be
paused comprises the act of, as television programming is received from a video on demand
server and output by the output device, detecting a first event indicating that the display of the
television programming is to be paused.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the
act of, in response to a second event, resuming the display of the media content.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein:
the media content comprises a live television program; and
display of the television program is resumed in response to a second event such
that, from the standpoint of a viewer, it appears as if a live broadcast of the television
program had been paused.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the act
of displaying a message associated with detection of the ~~first event~~ receipt of the email.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the act of
displaying a message associated with detection of the ~~first event~~ comprises the receipt of the
email comprises an act of displaying caller ID sender data associated with an ~~incoming telephone~~
email the received email.

19. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, further including:
in response to a second event, resuming display of the media content by displaying media that has been stored on a storage device.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 19, ~~wherein the act of detecting the first event comprises the act of detecting a ring signal on a telephone line, and wherein automatically executing the pause operation on the media content comprises automatically pausing the display of the media content when the ring signal is detected on the telephone line~~email is received at the other computing device.

21-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the act of ~~detecting the first event~~receipt of an email comprises the act of detecting a signal from a device associated with a home network.

25. (Currently Amended) In a computing device having an interruption engine and an associated output device, a method for automatically pausing display of media content in response to an event, the method comprising the acts of:

as media content is received from a content source and displayed by the output device, detecting ~~an event~~ receipt of an email in the environment of the computing device;

identifying a priority value to be assigned to ~~the event~~ a sender of the email based on priority information stored at the computing device;

applying a rule of a set of rules to the priority value assigned to the event to identify an interruption operation to pause the display of the media content in response to receipt of the email from the sender; and

automatically executing the interruption operation and pausing the display of the media content while maintaining a connection with the content source and while continuing to receive media content from the content source.

26-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 25, further comprising the act of receiving the set of rules in broadcast data encoded in a television signal.

30. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 25, further comprising the act of receiving data that was registered with the interruption engine by a user, wherein the data defines the set of rules.

31. (Cancelled).

32. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 25, further comprising the act of the interruption engine learning the behavior of a viewer associated with the computing device so as to generate the information on which the priority value to be assigned to the event is based.

33. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 25, further comprising the act of the interruption engine learning the behavior of a viewer associated with the computing device so as to generate the rule of the set of rules.

34. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the act of applying a rule of a set of rules to the priority value comprises the act of further applying an exception to the rule.

35. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the act of applying a rule of a set of rules to the priority value comprises a video on demand server applying a rule of a set of rules to the priority value.

36. (Cancelled).

37. (Previously presented) A computer program product for implementing, in a computing device having an associated output device, a method for automatically executing an interruption operation on media content in response to an event, the computer program product comprising:

a computer-readable medium encoded with computer-executable instructions that, when executed at the computing device, cause the computing device to perform the method recited in claim 1.

38. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as recited in claim 37, wherein the method further includes:

in response to ~~the detected event~~receipt of the email, automatically storing a live television signal in which the television is encoded on a storage device so as to pause the display of the live television program; and

in response to a second event, resuming display of the television signal by displaying the television signal that has been stored on the storage device.

39. (Cancelled).